BURTON, Eli Franklin [Professor, Dept. of Physics] October 1918, June 1919

(073)

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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Oct. 10th, 1918.

Sir Robert Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

You will remember that before Dr. McLennan left for England it was arranged with Principal Grange of the Ontario Veterinary College that their First Year Students should come to the Department of Physics for a course of lectures. Probably on account of the recent changes in the Staff of this College, these students were not sent to us last year.

Dr. McGillvray came to see me in September and expressed a desire that this course, together with a two hour period in laboratory work, should be begun this year. The classes have already begun.

On looking up the correspondence with regard to this matter I find that on April 18th, 1917, Professor McLennan recommended to you that a course of twenty-five lectures, then contemplated, should involve a fee of $5.00 per student with a minimum amount of $200.00. We are providing a course of fifty lectures and fifty hours laboratory work and the number of students is eleven.

Naturally, this will involve additional assistants in the way of lecturers and demonstrators. This is all provided for in the recommendations which I have made to you in a separate letter. Of course, the whole of the increase which I have recommended cannot be charged up to the Veterinary class. I think a fair amount chargeable to the Veterinary College for this service would be $400.00

Very sincerely yours,

E.F. Burton

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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(COPY).

Nov. 23rd.

Professor J.C.McLennan,
Victory House,
Cockspur St.,
London, Eng.

Dear Dr. McLennan:

Your note of Nov. 4th, acknowledging the receipt of the reflecting glass blocks for the Jamin Interferometer arrived a day or two ago. I am glad everything has reached you safely.

Mr. McTaggart passed through Toronto a couple of weeks ago and is now out West. He expects to return here in a few weeks. I am wondering what effect the ending of the war will have on your immediate plans with regard to the men employed over there with you, and also Dr. Gilchrist.

As you know we are very shorthanded, particularly as regards positions involving responsibility, and it would be much more satisfactory if we could have at once the services of Dr. Gilchrist or Mr. McTaggart, or those of Mr. Ainslie or Mr. Keys. We have fairly large first and second year Arts Classes, and the largest first year Medical class (240) that we have ever had.

I suppose that it will be necessary for Mr. McTaggart to return, but I should be very glad if you could make arrangements to let us have someone by the first of the year.

With kind regards to Mrs. McLennan and yourself, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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Nov. 28th, 1918.

Sir Robert Falconer,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

Now that there is every prospect of the war being at an end, I feel that it should not be necessary for the Department of Physics to have to work with as small a Staff as we were willing to work with under war conditions.

While we are able to serve our classes fairly well during this term I can see, on account of the shift that we always have for the second half of the year, that it is absolutely necessary for us to have at least one more person whom I can ask to assume more responsibility in the laboratory than I care to put upon one of our rather inexperienced assistant demonstrators.

There are two ways in which this can be accomplished. First, the immediate return to the Department of either Dr. Gilchrist or Mr. McTaggart, who are both away on military service at half pay; or second, the recall, for the balance of the term, of either Mr. Ainslie or Mr. Keys, who served full time last year, as temporary appointments.

Financially, it does not make very much difference which of these courses is adopted. If we cannot obtain one of these men we shall have to ask for the appointment of two or three students for periods of two hours a week each. But this arrangement is decidedly unsatisfactory and should be adopted only as a last resort.

University of Toronto
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A large part of the responsibility which we placed upon Mr. Ainslie last year has been assumed this year by Miss Foster, who is finding the strain of the work rather trying. Miss Foster resigned a studentship, granted by the Advisory Council, in order to undertake this work for us, and I understand that this studentship is held open for her. If we could have two of the above named men return by the first of the year, I am sure that Miss Foster would be glad to resign the demonstratorship, and take up the work of the studentship. I may say that her services are completely satisfactory as demonstrator, but I am afraid that her health might not be equal to the strain.

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter which I have sent to Dr. McLennan, and should be glad if you would also communicate with him.

Mr. McTaggart is now on leave in Canada, and will be spending a few days in Toronto in the course of a week or two. I think we should know whether or not it is absolutely necessary for him to return.

Under present conditions we are not able to give any graduate lectures and it is very difficult to get any time free to devote to our research students, who are seven in number at the present time. This state of affairs is not fair to the students themselves or to the Staff now at work.

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

E. F. Burton

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November 28th, 1918

Professor E. F. Burton,

Department of Physics,

University of Toronto.

Dear Professor Burton:

I have just written a letter to Professor Wolenman to cable whether or not he is willing McTaggart should stay.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 12th, 1919

Professor E. P. Burton,

Physical Laboratory.

Dear Professor Burton:

I am sorry that since the opening of the war there has been no fund for paying part of the expenses of members of the staff to attend meetings of the learned and scientific societies. I have had to refuse a great many requests, but we have some hope that in the not distant future we may be able to return to our former practice.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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June 21st, 1919

Professor E. F. Burton,

Physics Department,

University of Toronto.

Dear Professor Burton:

Will you please let the President know how many hours a week you have given to the special classes for returned men ?

Yours sincerely,

President's Secretary.